IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS BEAUMONT DIVISION

FLAME S.A.	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
V.	§	C.A. No. <u>10-cv-00278-RC</u>
	§	IN ADMIRALTY, Rule E
m/v LYNX, her engines, freights, apparel,	§	
appurtenances, tackle, etc., in rem	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	

DECLARATION OF IOANNIS VEKRIS

- I, **Ioannis Vekris**, pursuant to Section 1746 of Title 28 of the United States Code, hereby declare and say the following under penalty of perjury:
- 1. I am an individual of sound mind and body, and have never been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.
- 2. This declaration is respectfully submitted in support of non-party, alleged alterego CAMELA NAVIGATION INC. (hereinafter "CAMELA") in support of the motion to vacate a pending Rule C vessel arrest of the M/T LYNX and to dismiss the U.S. legal proceedings.
- 3. I am a citizen of Greece and a resident of Athens. I am the legal advisor and a shareholder of CAMELA.
- 4. I make this declaration based upon my personal knowledge, official company records and my own investigation.
- 5. CAMELA was founded and incorporated on March 16, 2006. Attached hereto as Exhibit "1" is a copy of the company's Certificate of Incorporation.

- 6. CAMELA is a corporation existing by virtue of the laws of the Marshall Islands with its registered address at Trust Company Complex, Ajeltake Road, Ajeltake Island, Majuro, Marshall Isl. MH 96960
- 7. I am aware that Plaintiff arrested the M/T LYNX, pursuant to a Warrant of Arrest issued in the above captioned action, in order to, *inter alia*, satisfy a judgment against Primera Maritime (Hellas), Ltd. (hereinafter "Primera").
 - 8. The M/T LYNX has never been owned, operated, or managed by Primera.
- 9. CAMELA is the registered Owner of the M/T LYNX. The technical manager of the vessel is V. Ships Limited (hereinafter "V. Ships"), and Chemnav Shipmanagement Ltd. (hereinafter "Chemnav") is the commercial manager of the vessel. A copy of the Lloyd's MIU report for the M/T LYNX is attached hereto as Exhibit "2." A copy of a letter from V-Ships confirming that they have been the managers since the Vessel's construction is also attached as "Exhbit 3".
- 10. This wrongful arrest is causing CAMELA to suffer substantial damages, a complete disruption of business operations, and loss of reputation in the commercial marketplace in an already depressed and niche chemical tanker market where CAMELA is struggling to break even.
- 11. Plaintiff has not and cannot assert any factual grounds upon which to base any claim, let alone a proper maritime claim *in rem*, against the M/T LYNX in the present action, or anywhere else in the world.
 - 12. Plaintiff does not have grounds to arrest the M/T LYNX.
 - 13. Primera is not the "beneficial owner" of the M/T LYNX.

- 14. Moreover, Plaintiff has wrongfully alleged that Primera is the parent of CAMELA. *See* Verified Complaint, ¶ 20. This is incorrect; Primera does not own directly or indirectly any stock in CAMELA.
- 15. I am aware that Plaintiff has alleged that CAMELA is an "alter ego subsidiary" of Primera.
- 16. Plaintiff has not asserted any supportable factual grounds upon which to allege such a relationship.
- 17. Plaintiff has not and cannot rebut that any corporate relationships that CAMELA has are at arms-length. Moreover, Plaintiff has not provided any evidence that Primera exercises dominion or control over CAMELA.
- 18. I hereby declare that CAMELA is a completely separate and distinct legal entity, independently financed and operated from Primera.
 - 19. CAMELA does not share common or overlapping stock ownership with Primera.
 - 20. CAMELA and Primera are not partners or joint venturers
- 21. CAMELA is its own unique and separate profit center and has its own distinct Balance Sheet as well as separate Profit & Loss Accounts all independently audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers, CAMELA maintains its own independent Bank Accounts
 - 22. CAMELA does not hold or use the property or assets of Primera as its own.
- 23. CAMELA observes formal legal requirements regarding all corporate activities in all material respects.
- 24. The Mortgage for the M/T LYNX (See Verified Complaint, Exhibit E) and the Loan Facility Agreement (See Verified Complaint, Exhibit F) do not establish that Primera is the "beneficial owner" of the M/T LYNX as alleged by Plaintiff. These

documents confirm that CAMELA is the registered owner of the M/T LYNX and has been since the construction of the Vessel.

- 25. Plaintiff has not and cannot allege any existence of fraud, wrongdoing or injustice to third parties by CAMELA.
- 26. I hereby declare that the company, CAMELA, is a separate legal entity from Primera and vice versa.

I hereby declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated: May 15, 2010 Athens, Greece

Ioannis Vekris

EXHIBIT 1

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CORPORATIONS

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that

CAMELA NAVIGATION INC.

is duly incorporated and has filed articles of incorporation under the provisions of the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act on

March 16, 2006



WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Registry on March 16, 2006.

Deputy Registrar

18152

EXHIBIT 2



Lynx

IMO:

9388223

Flag:

Marshall Islands

Reg. Owner:

Camela Nav. Inc.

Type:

Combined Chemical And Oil Tanker

Status:

Vessel Overview

Details of the vessel including registration, dimensions, ownership and other characteristics...updated 24/7

Name

Lynx

IMO

9388223

Status

Live

Flag

Marshall Islands

Type

Combined Chemical And Oil Tanker

Year of build **DWT**

2008 13117

GT

8542

Contact

Chemnav Inc.

Hull Type

DH

Registration (Name, Flag, Callsign, IMO, MMSI)

Name

Lynx since: 28 Jul 2008

Flag

Marshall Islands, From: 14 October 2008

Callsign

V7PE4

IMO

9388223 538 003213

MMSI

Port of Registry

Majuro

Tonnages (GT, Net DWT)

GT

Net

4117

DWT

13117

Formula DWT

12469

Tonnage History

Before 04 Dec 2008 Before 01 Apr 2006

From Until GT Net DWT Formula DWT 8542 4117 13117 12469 Before 03 Dec 2008 8562 12469 4095 13022

History (Construction Details, Launch Details)

Construction

Yard Number:

Built By:

Sekwang Heavy Industries Co. Ltd

Built At:

Ulsan

Ordered:

Before 01 Apr 2006

Scheduled:

In the month of 01 Oct 2008

Construction start: Construction end:

20 Mar 2008 27 Oct 2008

Launch

Launched:

28 Jul 2008

First Movement:

n/a

Dimensions (Breadth, Depth / Draught, Length)

Breadth Extreme: 20.4m Moulded: 20.4m

Depth / Draught Depth: 11.5m

Draught: 8.7m Freeboard: 2812mm

Length Between Perpendiculars: 120.4m

Registered: n/a Overall: 128.6m

Classification & Insurance (Clubs, ISM, ISPS, Societies)

Clubs P&I: n/a

ISM Vessel has no current ISM ISPS Vessel has no current ISPS

Class: ABS (Americas)(AB) After 01 Aug 2006

Hull details (Hull Info, Ballast)

Hull Info Build Material: Steel

Deck(s): 1
Watertight Compartments: n/a
Bulkheads: n/a
Hull Type: DH
Bulbous Bow: Y

Ballast Capacity (tonnes): 5277 Segregated Capacity n/a

(tonnes):

Facilities details (Details on available facilities)

Pumps Total: 14

Description: 12 X 300 CBM/HR FRAMO DEEPWELL 2 X 100 CBM/HR SLOP FRAMO DEEPWELL

Capacity (Cubic): n/a
Capacity (Tonnes): n/a

Total: 14

Tanks Total: 14
Center Tanks: n/a

Tank Capacity Liquid m³: 14257

Deck Tank m³: n/a
Slop Tank m³: 694
Crude Capacity (Barrels): 88240
Crude Capacity (Metric): n/a

Coils Tank Heated Coils: STAINLESS STEEL

Products Number Of Grades: 13 Number Of Lines: n/a

Product Tanks Wing Tanks: 12

Tank Coated: PHENOLIC EPOXY (SIGMA)

Lifting Gear (3) Number Type SWL

 1
 Crane
 2.1

 1
 Crane
 10

 1
 Crane
 3

Machinery (Engines, Speed, Propellers, Boilers, Generators)

Engines (1) Type Diesel (1)

Power (Kilowatts) 4440
Designed by: 8&W Diesel

Built by: STX Engine Co. Ltd Built at: Changwon (KOR)

 Position
 Cylinders
 Bore
 Stroke
 Fuel
 Designation:

 n/a
 6
 350
 1400
 Marine Diesel
 6S35MC-MK7

 Primary Fuel Type
 Type
 Marine Diesel

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	Capacity Consumption		684 n/a			
Propellers (1)	Number Type		1 Fixed Pitch			
B∞ilers (1)	Туре	Number	Auxillary	Pressure	MPA	Heat
	Oil Fired	1	Auxillary		9	0
Generators (3)	Generator Nui	nber	Power Type	Power	Current AC /	DC
	3	Marie Control of the	KW	480		

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EXHIBIT 3



V.Ships Limited
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13 Omonia Avenue
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3312 Limassol, Cyprus
Ph: +357 25 848400
Fax: +357 25 560170
Telex 4707 VSHIP CY
Marinos.Sekkides@ vships.com
www.vships.com

Limassol 14th May 2010

To whom it may concern

We hereby confirm that the vessel m/t Lynx (IMO nr.9388223) with registered Owners being Camela Navigation Inc is within V.Ships Limited management since 27th of October 2008.

Yours faithfully

V. Ships Limited
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13. Omonia Avenue
P.O. Box 57115, Limassol
CYPRUS
M. Sekkides
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Insurance Manager.

